

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of all grounds of objection and rejection, and allowance of all the pending claims are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-6, 8-11 and 13-20 remain pending herein. Claims 21 and 22 have been added, Applicants note support being clearly found original claim 7.

At the outset, Applicant notes with appreciation the indication the Office Action that claims 11 and 13-18 are allowed, and that claims 2, 3 and 20 recite allowable subject matter. Claim 2 has been rewritten into an independent format including all the recitations of base claim 1 except for the verbiage that was incorporated from claim 7 in the previous amendment. The Examiner does not list the recitation of claim 7 added to claim 1 in his reasons for indicating the allowability of claim 2 and we have thus removed. Applicants also note that claims 4 and 20 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicants also acknowledge the Examiner's statement on page two of the Office Action that he has reconsidered the allowability of claim 7, the subject matter of said claim having been incorporated into claim 1 and claim 7 being cancelled by the Applicants after receiving an indication in the previous Office Action of December 16, 2003 that claim 7 recited allowable subject matter.

Claims 1, 4-6, 8-10 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over De Veau

et al. (U.S. 5,994,679, herein after "De Veau"). Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection. Applicants have canceled claim 3 and incorporated its claimed subject matter into claim 1, rendering claim 1 to be allowable and all claims dependent from 1 (such as 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10 and new claim 21).

With regard to claim 19, Applicants have added the allowable subject matter from allowable claim 20 thereto, thus canceling claim 20 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants have also removed the subject matter of claim 7 that was added to claim 19 in the previous Amendment, and have added a new claim 22 that depends from the amended claim 19.

Accordingly, all of the pending claims are now allowable in view of the reference. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned in the event of any perceived outstanding issues so that passage of the case to issue can be affected without the need for a further Office Action.

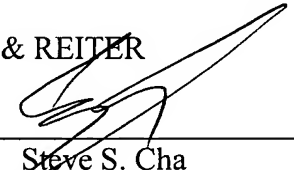
Amendment  
Serial No. 10/108,726

Docket No. 5000-1-243.

In the event that any additional fee is required to continue the prosecution of this Application as requested, please charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 502-470.

Respectfully submitted,

CHA & REITER

  
By: Steve S. Cha  
Attorney for Applicants

Date: 9/7/04

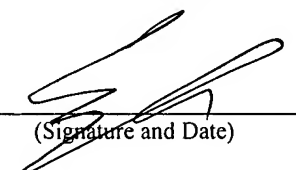
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313 on 9/7/04.

Steve Cha, Reg. No. 44,069  
(Name of Registered Rep.)

  
(Signature and Date)